

so ordered. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, I hate to venture into this discussion, but I rise to support the amendment. I come with little knowledge about alcohol and make no confessions thereof. But Mr. President, there are some things that I think are important. I think several times I have said on this floor that the most important thing for us to consider, and first of all I do not doubt Senator Kelly's sincerity in the issue, I have said many times that the number one problem of those of us who do not have the privilege, or lack of privilege, whichever perspective you look at it, to live in the central part of the state like Grand Island, where it is some several dozens and dozens of miles to any border to preclude our children from doing something like that, or our young people. Those of us that live on the Missouri River, those of us that live on the northern part of Nebraska, those of us that live near Kansas, those of us that live near Colorado, the number one problem is that we have made a statement that we have prevented young people from drinking, and we know that is not true. Senator Kelly says now more teenagers are drinking. I did an impartial study in this Chamber this morning of no names. More than thirty of the forty-two members that I polled this morning had purchased or have consumed alcohol when it was illegal. I don't know what that equates to, but it is a pretty high percentage, and I think that that will be fairly uniform throughout the state. It was more uniform when I grew up as a young person. The state of Oklahoma, in their wisdom to preclude anyone from drinking, said that no one would drink any booze except when they were 21 years old they could have what was known as 3.2 beer, and let me tell you the results of that. The sobriety in Oklahoma was unbelievable. There was nothing that anybody consumed. There was no consumption of liquor anywhere, except every other night and twice on Sundays. The attempt to preclude people from consuming alcohol has been a disastrous experience throughout the history of this nation. We did that on a national basis in the twenties, and look how nobly that worked out. Those that got rich were those who sold it under any circumstances or any quantity or any quality. I think the amendment is a fair compromise. I don't particularly love it, but I for one if I support this amendment, I intend to continue to do so to the end. However, there are some other places and other things we can do. The Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, this morning, I think, Senator Newell, introduced a bill to tighten up some of our laws that really get out and say rather than just a statement, that we do not want 19 year olds to drink, or 21 year olds to buy. We have introduced a law to close down those establishments that sell to minors, and close them down for a substantive amount of time, to make it